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Bilious Remittent Fever in Kentucky 1818

Benjn. F. Bedinger

admitted april 6th 1819

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An
essay upon the Bilious remittent
fever as it occurred in a section
of the state of Kentucky in
the summer of the year 1818
Submitted
To the examination of the faculty
of medicine in the University
of Pensylvania for the pur-
pose of procuring the degree
of Doctor of Medicine.
by
the author

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Preface.

In submitting, the observations to which the author, has prefixed these prefatory remarks, to the examination of the faculty of medicine he would do himself and the opinions which he has advanced great injustice, were he to omit mentioning, that the short time (which he has had of throwing them together which, from his ignorance of the circumstance of his going to visit this school until but a few days previous to his departure, from home, and from the

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complete occupation of his time during the winter in paying the necessary attention to the different courses of lectures has been mostly accomplished in the short time allowed since the close of the session: which have necessarily prevented his giving the subject that complete and attentive investigation which he had most anxiously desired to have instituted.

It is also with pain that the author feels the necessity of asking an indulgence, for the many blemishes both in the composition, and writing, which have been very much the result of the haste, to which he has been forced to submit, in order to accomplish his remarks previous to the expiration of the time prescribed by the regulations of the University.

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An essay upon the Bilious remittent fever as it occurred in a section of the state of Kentucky in the summer of the year of 1818

In the rage for speculation in which physicians have indulged since the first dawn of medical science to its present improved, and enlightened condition, without noticing the innumerable and may I say? absurd opinions of the scribbling innovators of science, who have written under the deceptive influence of their own supposed superior mental powers and acuteness of intellect under the fascinating influence of which they have flattered themselves with the vain hope of snatching from the dark labyrinth of dis-

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ease the Esculapian wreathe encircled with which they have expected speedily to scale the stupendous heights of the temple of **Fame** where by the immense profundity of their supposed sagacity, they should [illegible] the imperishable luminarys, and indestructible monuments of science.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Thus [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] arose. Thus do we see the successive differences, mutations and modifications which have taken place, been recorded, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] medium of the works of men highly celebrated and eminently illustrious as the cultivators of medical science.

In this manner theories have arisen [illegible] theory becoming a tradition upon [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] itself upon the ruins of its precursor &

[illegible] to be overthrown by one of a succeeding age, so that even the most long lived by [illegible] has scarce outlived its progenitor, until his memory had been dispatched, in the death of friends and acquaintance.

In among the various phenomena which have been the subjects of speculation has that succession of phenomena to which we apply the term fever been prohibited a [illegible] conspicuous.

[illegible] the [illegible] by [illegible] which has taken place upon the subject of [illegible] nature it is [illegible] to a point far from being settled.

The many and [illegible] acquirements of physiological, and pathological science which have not been sufficiently considered to free them adequate from a source of fallacy in all the

deductions which we are led to make from the various phenomena which afterwards present:

It is in this manner that we often form theories which are only plausible on account of the [illegible] of their authors who observing their efficacy are led to call to their aid that kind of sophisticated reasoning by which an author has observed the [illegible] though evidently conceived for the purposes of morality may by partial quotations be rendered a cloak for our the most heinous and unpardonable crimes which have power the [illegible] maintain

But whilst making these concessions I would not be considered as declaiming against theory, for at the same time that we cannot consider that [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] under the influence of sophistry, forming hypotheses from the detached idiosyncrasies of disease without attending to [illegible] universal, and [illegible] but only relating such [illegible] as are calculated to support the preconceived notions of depraved fancy [illegible] to obliterate the most prominent phenomena which would militate against their own theories or any other light than the light of science [illegible] it is a fact too self-evident to admit of a momentary doubt, that it is [illegible] reasoning alone which [illegible] upon the immutable laws of previous [illegible], and experiment, that we are to come at truth in any branch of philosophy or science.

In [illegible] all the false notions and idle theories which have appeared in the

[illegible] annals of medicine, to the voluntary suppression of such facts as are calculated to exercise an influence in opposition to their opinion, [illegible] accuse the medical world of an immorality which practically, and on reflection, would concur in declaring incompatible.

[illegible] may [illegible] sense of liberality suppose that when men have set out to observe and experiment under the influence of particular opinions, that they have more generally confined their researches to such circumstances [illegible] invalidate [illegible] opinions.

Thus we may suppose a much larger majority of speculations have been lost from truth by the inaccuracy and mutilated state of their [illegible], than a

[illegible] nature from facts.

So in this [illegible] we that we too often observe speculatists hanging forward abstract circumstances to support general theories, instead of theories to account for general phenomena.

Having premised those few and general observations, in which I [illegible] rather [illegible] by a [illegible] expression of the most prominent faults of theorists than analytically to investigate them, I shall [illegible] farther comment, proceed to the subject of this [illegible], which it shall be my chief endeavour to [illegible] and illustrate, not in the full extent of its [illegible] and importance.

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so severely felt by many of the inhabitants of the vale of Berkeley that the most correct method of ascertaining and ensuring a correct view of its nature and probability will be to furnish its history with a short account of such circumstances previous, and concomitant as might be supposed to exercise an influence or hold a necessary connexion with the succeeding circumstances of disease.

The first and most surprising which we may mention as preceding it was the weather, which during the spring and summer of the year 1817, was been such as has been but rarely experienced by the oldest inhabitants of the state.

In the months of April and May, and with the exception of a few cases

and [illegible] cases of epidemic bacheder among the children. [illegible] characterized by an unusual degree of heat a [illegible] of cold was observed, which was much deprecated by the farmer as it proved incompatible with the early germination of the already sown seed, and an impediment to the prosecution of the various operations of husbandry.

But the most deviation of the preceding circumstances were more than pronounced by the reverse occurrence an increase of temperature which almost equally unknown, this commenced about the first of June, and continued until the last of August, during which time, our summer, as it was designed at the top of her production spring upon not only its additional increase of temperature but by its concomitant, an unprecedented

those almost innumerable floods, which by inundating the banks of our rivers, even smaller streams, with their adjacent low grounds, the forming powers of water-worn at became stagnant, and at the same time washing off immensities of mud and vegetable matter from the highlands which was deposited in the form of a slimy [illegible] in which the innovated lands, were perfectly and totally enveloped.

The accession of an immoderate [illegible] temperature to which these reiterated accumulations are [illegible] will [illegible] that [illegible] vegetation [illegible] on [illegible] so much as to suppose that during the decomposition of this matter that there was emitted such quantities of poisonous emanations, for the deleterious

[illegible] the [illegible] by the [illegible] [illegible] of the spleen [illegible] [illegible] the long application of an inconstant [illegible] temperature, [illegible] have proved a [illegible] precedent to the [illegible].

[illegible] the [illegible] by [illegible] such [illegible] [illegible] calculated to have a particular bearing [illegible] with the [illegible] of this [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] such [illegible] of those [illegible] [illegible] immediate [illegible] [illegible] a general [illegible] of [illegible] most [illegible] conspicuous phenomena [illegible] exhibited.

Let us suppose [illegible] prevalence of which [illegible] to depend upon it the title of a [illegible] epidemic yet from the frequency [illegible] to

[illegible] and the [illegible] by which characterizes its [illegible] is more than sufficient to clap it with the [illegible] of [illegible] and we shall now [illegible] the proper medium to respect its [illegible] [illegible].

The month of June as I have always observed was ushered in with a great change of temperature and weather at this time. I do not tell this could it be said that Ceres has snatched the sceptre from the [illegible] of [illegible].

"But, alas, how long is it that pleasure and pain the progeny of the same parent, and that both streams are supplied by the same fountain, just had the joyfull husbandman chewsing the most pleasing anticipations of a plenty unmuderation for his commodity

labors; for the time, it will have to the fields, when disease like the fell monster raises his Hydra head and the great happy bring of prosperity within its immolating grasp of its victim upon.

Thus this only in the month of June that this disease was first by a particular degree of violence as to attract my attention.

We here proceed to a general history of the disease. But as I confined in that branch of illustration which we receive from the relation of a particular case is more particularly calculated to enforce a comprehensive view of the appearances of the disease, I shall here take the liberty of [illegible] the history of a [illegible] case as a history of the

in its more general and aggravated form, and as it was one in which my affections were particularly interested it was one in which I had the most perfect though painful opportunity of investigating.

The propriety of this method of describing diseases will be more particularly evident, when we consider — that we have rarely had an opportunity of viewing diseases in that form in which they are uninfluenced by medicines which have been exhibited to their cures.

A knowledge of this with the great and I may say, in fact, the insuperable difficulties under which we labour of discriminating between the symptoms consequent to the administration of medicines we have prescribed which

is generally change or modify many of the phenomena, and what would have been the consequences had the disease been permitted to observe its nature uncontrolled or entirely uninfluenced by the interference of our art,

Hence may we not suppose that many diseases had they been left to the unimpeded powers of nature would have either resulted in a form very much different from that in which they have appeared or even not have existed at all,

Supposing the above observations to be sufficiently explicit of the reasons which induced me to pursue the plan here laid down, I shall proceed concisely and as explicitly as the limits of this hasty sketch will admit to describe the progress and treatment of the disease,

[illegible] days previous to the [illegible] attack. These [illegible] the patient an absence of his usual acidity and a sedentary habit appears to be [illegible] in one which had been accustomed to the most active employments, when a [illegible] appetite and [illegible] tongue informed me of an incipient accumulation of morbid matter in the primæ viæ and which induced me to prescribe calomel thirty grains, which having operated [illegible] copiously, he felt relieved, at least so much so much so that on the following day having business [illegible] did not hesitate to ride out, at evening when he [illegible] he felt a slight chill which induced him to go to bed where it was immediately succeeded

by a violent paroxysm of fever - which was attended with a considerable degree of delirium which rather symptoms of a bad kind when I saw him on the succeeding morning though his fever still continued to rage with a considerable degree of violence. his pulse frequent though comparatively soft great heat of body, restlessness and an insatiable thirst. with a yellow scurf covering his tongue, I now prescribed a calomel and Pulv Jalapae each thirty grs, which was followed by so sparing an evacuation of his bowels that at his request I followed it by the Epsom water which is a purging mineral water of great repute as a cathartic among the natives of this part of the state, this was given until it produced copious discharges of an aqueous consistence and yellow colour, the o'clock P.M. night

[illegible] his [illegible] pale while his head
head and neck are immediately warm
have his feet and hands rubbed with
warm flannel, shaving it his feet,
his paroxysm returns with some delirium
though his [illegible] continue pale
great pain in his back and loins, par
tial sweats break out on his forehead
neck and breast though they extend
no lower than his breast, [illegible]
and continue greater part of the
night, Second day gave him an emet
ic of tartar, [illegible] his stomach,
gently [illegible] hyoscyamus
vomiting though little else than
water is thrown up, Repetitive dia
[illegible] success, with aggravation of the
pain in the back and loins, [illegible]
are circumstances [illegible] of
the presence of [illegible] matter —

in the primae viae I gave him of calomel, grs thirty, which passed off without producing any sensible difference either in the quantity or quality of the discharge.

Dreading the results which must inevitably follow the continuance of so profuse a discharge, I waited a few days to see the efficacy of the medicine which I had prescribed upon 2d. Thursday [illegible] my mind to whose talents & intelligence I owe many of the obligations I am in the physicians of the state in which I am located, as his accuracy of observation as well as correctness of principle has enabled him to divest the science of many of its unnecessary terrors, and heave the shackles, in which many of our physicians are bound, who remain in the ratiocinative faculty, entirely confined to the authors, which they have

[illegible] and who without considering the continual change [illegible] in the type, or violence of disease or the of climate in which they have occurred, consider any deviation from the path or sentiments which their tutors have impressed on to their minds, as an excommunicable heresy.

Here I have made a short digression, [illegible] subject the more immediate object of our enquiry yet I trust [illegible] attempt to [illegible] (as I consider its [illegible]) the merit of having introduced a practice [illegible] at once safe and decisive, it not be considered as altogether foreign to the subject.

A [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] the medium of words would be detracting from

the cause [illegible] in that mind which is in [illegible] favourably.

My opinion I formed from the first view of the case decidedly for [illegible] purging and with [illegible] not having any scales present, strictly grounded on reference with directions, that the little quantity should be taken in four hours unless the first dose should change the aqueous appearance of the stools.

"Blisters were applied to his extremities a few days succeeding the exceedingly [illegible] the [illegible] having, and of [illegible] being accompanied with no perceptible change in the appearance or quantity of the evacuations the advice of Dr Marshall and my own previous observation which had long since led me to [illegible] the use of all palliatives internally given as incompatible.

and I was determined to continue the
use of remedies in doses of half the quantity
above mentioned, the medicine combined with
rhubarb, aloes, gamboge and Hemlock
& that - he now lost thirty grs of calomel
combined with the large doses of one of the
above mentioned articles every three hours
at the same time that heat of his body
which had now become universal, was moderated
by the application of cold and acidulated
water - to his temples & arms, & forehead
by the means of sponging, & the use of
that - I permitted him to bathe his hands
in cold water - the application of which
in other cases stone appeared from
the effect of rousing him from the
state of lethargy, and coma to which
he was rapidly descending.
His tongue now on the fourth day was
covered with a dark brown dry crust which

[illegible] impaired his [illegible] that he was obliged to keep by [illegible] [illegible] ater for the purpose of washing his mouth. A blister was now applied to the back of his neck no other change except the increased debility. Purges continued.

On the fifth day at twelve o'clock with the exception of increased [illegible] and twitching of the tendons which were now a concomitant of his sleep there could be but little change observed as during the last three days he had taken two ounces of [illegible] combined with considerable quantities of other drastic purgatives as above mentioned I have now [illegible] despaired of the practice whereby the administration of another and somewhat larger dose I was [illegible] to perceive the long expected and much wished for change in the alvine dis

charges; which instead of being purely aqueous, now appeared to be mixed with a dark coloured gelatinous matter, which floating through them gave them the appearance of urine, floating through water, and in the course of a few hours, I have the pleasure of evidencing the entire cessation of the watery discharges, which cessation, was followed by copious stools of a dark olive colour and very offensive, and of the consistence of jelly, this discharge was kept up for two days by the alternate administration of calomel and castor oil. the quantity of offensive ~~matter~~ matter passed during this time as I supposed was about two gallons when it gradually ceased his fever left him his pulse became soft and regular and by the moderate use of wine which he had taken

for the last two days his appetite became so good as to ask for something to eat of which he had taken nothing for the last six days he now refused to take the bark emulsion or other bitters for which I however found a good substitute in wine a light and nourishing diet, with which, and the daily use of the Lake water, so as to operate as a gentle laxative, he was in a short time restored to his usual good health.

[illegible] the [illegible] of this [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the extent to which the purging flux had been carried during during the term of six days given three [illegible] of calomel combined with large quantities of other drastic purgatives and these with a success equalling my most sanguine expectations, I was induced to write as history the most material

pails of which I have given here both, for the purpose of giving a more correct idea of the phenomena which marked the disease and as a more explicit illustration of that treatment which when applied at an early stage of the disease, when the patients strength had not already been exhausted, has so far as my experience goes proved universally successful.

Notwithstanding what I have already recorded that the preceding may be considered as history of the disease in its more general and aggravated form, I must here observe that these symptoms were subject to many modifications and were often very numerous in their appearances, of these however I will at this place only mention the most prominent.

Although the commencement of the disease was more generally marked by the recum-

strange already scrofulous yet I remark, my that these phenomena are by no means of universal occurrence. It would be an easy matter to point out, if it appeared from and emanating which is primary occurrence exhibits. As in this it shy on the laws of epidemics in general and was exhibited in its incipient stage, it means carry all the symptoms of a large proportion of the diseases of common occurrence in our practice all of which however apparent in the incipient stage of the disease, appeared ultimately disposed to eliminate in this form of fever or at least to exhibit phenomena wearing much of its aspect

This fact was particularly exemplified in a very interesting case of scrofula which terminated in this fever and appeared to be entirely removed by its occurrence

or at least upon the patient's recovery from the latter disease. I have the pleasure of observing the absence of all the appearance of scrofula, & for aught any of its symptoms recur previous to my departure from the state, although some months have elapsed, & in fact I any reason to apprehend a return of the disease as it appeared to be entirely eradicated.

The concomitance of the serous discharge from the bowels could not be considered as an universal occurrence, but was so much so that I do not recollect of seeing (save in those cases where the purging plan had been resorted to) the incipient stage of the disease in which cases the disease was characterized by a peculiar mildness and capability of being managed; a solitary case in which it

was not an attendant,

Indeed it was the general occurrence of this circumstance which endeared the disease particularly interesting & discriminated it from the usual any of intermittent and remittent fevers in the tale of fevers among the old women of the neighborhood and country around.

It is hereby necessary to show how this my practice and observation was more particularly confined to a section of country representing a new and large region to which situations I have reason to believe this circumstance was more particularly confined as from the general information of physicians whose practice was confined to sections of country more remote from such sources of exhalation the watery discharges were much less frequent,

It would be useless that I should enter farther into a detail of the various forms which the disease exhibits. It will be sufficient to observe that I believe most these differences were only dependant on the peculiarities of constitution, the violence of the disease and consequent more or less aggravated appearance of the symptoms, already enumerated.

With a few exceptions to the practice which I have here given, in the case already related, I consider it one which in most cases we can depend upon with no inconsiderable degree of confidence. But as there may be doubtless some useful modifications adaptable to this practice, and as it may be considered not altogether useless that we should here, without pretending to be critically exact a series of observations upon the practice, pursued by many physicians,

[illegible] as reason [illegible] well upon a [illegible] be reason

[illegible] the high [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] which [illegible] [illegible] on the [illegible] of [illegible] It is [illegible] from [illegible] [illegible] from the authority of [illegible] [illegible] the universal consent [illegible] as well as the [illegible] testimony of my [illegible] [illegible] experience [illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] it may be reasonably supposed that [illegible] will feel any great hesitation [illegible] to them under circumstances [illegible] which they from analogy [illegible] reason to promise something efficacious [illegible] [illegible] some of those cases [illegible] [illegible] forced to view the fallacy [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to observe the al

most [illegible] of the colliqua-
tive diarrhœa, as a consequence to their
[illegible], a circumstance, which with
much [illegible] I felt inclined to attri-
bute to the emetics previous to my con-
[illegible]mation in the opinion by the co-
[illegible] evidence of that accurate
[illegible], the illustrious Dr. Syden[illegible]ham,
[illegible] tance as frequently
[illegible] the administration of emetics du-
ring the inflammatory stage of fever;
though it is true that he supposes in a
[illegible] very analogous to that which
[illegible] re elucidated that this [illegible]
[illegible] as a consequence of the too
sparing [illegible] of emetics, a
circumstance which [illegible] not consider
as [illegible] correct, as a very eminent physi-
cian [illegible] there was
in the habit of treating this disease.

accompanied with the diarrhœa.
[illegible]
[illegible] these [illegible]
[illegible] to administer them in doses of
a few [illegible] drops, [illegible] to
[illegible] The inability in
my flowers may most probably be met
by [illegible] however from an
aggregate of my own experience, and
from the information [illegible]
[illegible] from other [illegible] time
a much less appearance [illegible]
[illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] to
[illegible] a large [illegible]
[illegible].

[illegible]
[illegible] which it
[illegible] will [illegible] to [illegible]

[illegible] may be [illegible] more [illegible] by [illegible] than [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

to the [illegible] than the previous, since it is a knowledge of which can only be ascertained by long, [illegible] and frequent ~~[illegible]~~ and assiduous comparisons, for the [illegible] of blood [illegible] often prove better [illegible] to bleed than to forbear bleeding [illegible] the patient.

Such is it appears to me [illegible] in the high authority of Sydenham [illegible] as others, for whose opinions I have ever entertained the greatest respect that in a disease hastening our patient with a pulse much [illegible] by the wing state of debility, at the same time under the debilitating influence of almost continual aqueous discharges by stool, that there can be but few circumstances which would warrant the recurrence to that [illegible].

to this opinion. I am more particularly
with reference when I consider that
most of its advantages may be derived
from cold shower. which seems to
be its good consequences by reducing
that first initial action relieving the
liver and then the secretion, and
then advance by preventing the con
tinual tendency to come by bathing
upon the patient, and as an action
upon them it is comfortable and highly
agreeable sensation, and in fact bright
parently reanimating the patient.

As a remedy eminently beneficial
in this disease I cannot omit mention
ing Cupping. As the great utility of
these remedies in the advanced stage of
consumption is generally admitted
and well known it would be only
to me to be under into a detail of

an investigation of their beneficial operations in each stage of pleuro-pneumonia has only confirmed myself to more increased faith in their application which if not entirely have in instances been too much overlooked by practitioners.

In I have in many instances at the commencement of the disease in lightness, generally observe a more improved and slight white tinge place, I applied it to the inflammation at that time previous to the appearance of the succeeding cold stages would permit the supervening of the consequent inflammation prior to the commencement of each cold stage.

The application of Nitrate of Silver to the reduction of arterial action by venaesection and the various other

depleting measures is a practice which I am fully aware is considered by most authors of the present day. But at the same time I feel persuaded that I have not hitherto been found remiss by the exercise of authority. I may say this and that with the greatest experience and respect to many of the eminent of such authors with whom I would presume to differ. That in the present case of fever my experience has been the victim of unnecessary alteration and perhaps prejudice.

Still I am fully persuaded that by the application of blisters as above recommended that before effusion in the incipient stage of catarrh that it will arrest the extreme chill so much that it will either not appear at all, or be so much moderated that the volume

of the succeeding hot stage will be very much moderated.

That they will by equalizing the flow of blood to the surface, and extremities thus restoring the equilibrium to the circulation counteract any tendency to congestion in the stomach alimentary canal or other important viscera in as by hastening the morbid phenomena to the surface, they perform the part of stool pigeons or decoy birds to the disease, they will as is most certainly ascertained be followed by a more prompt and certain operation of purgatives and other succeeding internally given.

That the advantages derived from the application of the tests above recommended will at all times be as evident as when the system has been previously evacuated by a dose

for which neither can I, or believe to be correct.

But to me it appears as a very fallacious method of philosophizing indeed, that from this circumstance, we should be made any deductions which would presume upon their entire inutility. By the same process of reasoning we might infer that because five does not equal ten that it equals nothing.

[illegible] is pursued by many physicians whose experience is taught them to acknowledge the utility of [illegible] [illegible] consequence [illegible] [illegible] contain [illegible] the numerous [illegible] [illegible] or continue [illegible] [illegible] the emphasize though and believe, fallacious

[illegible] [illegible] enthusiastic avowal to varying very much, to the best of the same time that they apply more or less, which I cannot consider otherwise than [illegible] with one, often fraught in danger, and at best inefficiency; and would much rather chuse to depend upon an sufficiently capacious [illegible] [illegible] which [illegible] [illegible] experience has taught me to consider efficacious than the numerous and [illegible] [illegible] the arrangement of which must baffle the skill of the navigator, perplex and confuse his operations and only serve as the antagonists of each other [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] elementary or [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the deleterious [illegible] [illegible] those accumulations of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] wholly [illegible] [illegible] necessity.

to this susceptibility to attack, suggests that we may be easily led to suppose that such remote diseases are at least deprived of any necessarily prejudicial consequences, and are rather to those that, of adaptation in relation to ~~to variation~~ are commonly appreciating the disease.

[illegible] not be objected, from what I have said in the last paragraph that I have endeavoured to establish the idea of diaphoresis as all encumbrances of the disease, that the [illegible] of this utility in some circumstances of the disease has under the influence of generalization, [illegible] necessary in determining the circumstances under which they are thus applicable. It is too evident to be questioned, and is owing to the cause of the [illegible]

[illegible] that I would recommend a [illegible] violence. For notwithstanding my most decided opinion of the in the inadmissibility at any period [illegible] to the removal of vitiated and irritating matter stomach and intestines yet that in that stage of fever which in the commencement of the disease mostly occurs [illegible] have been evacuated and the stomach has received its susceptibility to the impression of the active remedies that may [illegible] with much benefit and [illegible] valuable [illegible] the vomiting and like gleaners in the field gather up the scattered [illegible] which have escaped the more effective operations of the [illegible].

[illegible] to [illegible] as well as from [illegible] I have [illegible] introduced into the

[illegible] increasing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] considers the latter [illegible]
[illegible] to cause the good [illegible]
[illegible] cure of the disease.

In [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] dependent
[illegible] at least after [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] the removal of such [illegible]
accumulations will by every person be
considered as the most [illegible] and
natural indications.

[illegible] the [illegible] these [illegible]
[illegible] together and [illegible]
[illegible] by [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] in the administration of purgatives in any [illegible] of this [illegible].

There are [illegible] lay it down as a general and practical principle, that [illegible] commencing, the use of purgatives, [illegible] should [illegible] administered in the [illegible] by the great majority of [illegible] which we have [illegible] never abandoned, [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] there are, [illegible], we have witnessed these [illegible] [illegible] in the accomplishment of the consequences, in which they were given, the [illegible] of which [illegible] [illegible] the evidently [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] which [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] being of [illegible] [illegible].

We indeed wonder at the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] any [illegible] which we will have a tendency to [illegible] among the practice of medicine against [illegible].

[illegible] of the much importance, to be needless with without the most serious consideration, and serious investigation, of which the case will admit: but at the same time [illegible] the prompt and immediate application of such measures as our knowledge, and the nature of the case will admit as a [illegible] duty which we owe this unfortunate [illegible] who by pursuing an unknown and placing himself under our care, deposits in our hands a trust than [illegible] in this world certainly, should be held more sacred and inviolable.

[illegible] I found it the practice of [illegible] in the unadmitted manner alone spoken of by any circumstances more particularly than from

the conviction that upon the promptness with which we combat them much their safety is dependent.

The diversified consequences of, congestive in this fever has of late received too little of the attention of physicians [illegible] they [illegible] a disease [illegible] exhibition of a cathartic which may either arise as a natural sequence of the disease or from the [illegible] labour of bad medicine, and the [illegible] state of matters already existing in the alimentary canal, as is peculiarly the case with the bad sequelae of the milder fevers, as the mentioned salts and even of the more drastic when exhibited in such small doses as are incapable of inducing a purgative impression greater than that already in existence,

[illegible]

[illegible] accumulations [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of their physical and chemical properties the ~~[illegible]~~ smaller than we [illegible] using these medicines [illegible] [illegible] exhibition are best calculated to [illegible] [illegible] most [illegible] [illegible] influence of the disease,

[illegible] in prescribing the purging plan of treatment, in these cases, should not be by exciting the secretory [illegible] of the stomach and bowels to produce a [illegible] efflux into the alimentary canal thus removing those debilitating [illegible] of [illegible] — or what is termed [illegible] by keeping the bowels in a state of [illegible] but by arresting the [illegible] accumulations to remove the circumstances upon which the morbid phenomena are dependant.

Indeed as a result of the experiments which I have had I cannot hesitate in declaring my most positive and unreserved opinion of the inutility and even deleterious consequences of this and I may be warranted in saying every other class of medicines when the pharmacopœia and time ~~in the opposing~~ in to accomplish the purposes for which they were intended in the violent tumors this disease. Nor in the true spirit of exploration appears to be only entitled to the name as its more hymnical disposition by the opposition of any power which is in unfettered let intercommunication.

[illegible]

[illegible] of medicines, and [illegible] of the

[illegible] when [illegible] by the [illegible] of nourishing the patient [illegible] the practice of [illegible] the use of them [illegible] for [illegible] many of the American physicians have substituted, practices which although bitter [illegible] the too sparing [illegible] are neither the least [illegible] alarming the state of the ~~the~~ alimentary canal which in these cases we have [illegible] reason to suppose are incapable of carrying on the process of digestion, and by the additional [illegible] which they [illegible] incomparably worse than the entire abstinence from food with the strong nothing.

Having thus given a general history of the disease with an account of the treatment which I consider peculiarly

[illegible] to [illegible] small [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] the
[illegible] observations [illegible] [illegible] a
[illegible] of any [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] but [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the class
[illegible] to which they have belonged with
an account of the indications to be in
[illegible] such [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
practice as well as the physician [illegible]
[illegible] general knowledge of the properties
[illegible] in [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] I have seen that I have an
[illegible] many circumstances
practical utility. My excuse for the
[illegible] is that I have no desire to
trouble either myself or the reader
with relations which are to be found in

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almost every work which has appeared upon the subject of fever.

That I have occasionally and almost unavoidably been led to indulge in some speculations, I admit, but at the same time from the consideration that the most ingenious of our hypotheses are the offspring of ignorance I have endeavoured to confine myself in those speculations to the explaining of established practical facts, from which I only hope that they may not detract, as I have related them with that important confidence which is the result of not a little observation, and a warrantable portion of clinical experience,